

January 22, 2002

Judge Kolar Kottely
U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division
601 D Street, N. W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear judge Kottely:

As an educator, with 37 years of experience, I have followed the Microsoft antitrust suit with much interest and would like to express a major concern regarding the timely disposition of this matter.

I believe the principle parties of this suit have come to a fair settlement for all concerned. However, the nine remaining attorneys general and the District of Columbia need to put aside their individual grievances and settle in the interest of consumers as well as the technology industry which so greatly affects the growth of our economy. It disappoints me that the Attorney General of Kansas is one of the parties who have resisted settlement.

I am encouraged that this settlement has the prospects of more healthy competition in the software industry as well as the increasing the availability of a variety of software to consumers. I sincerely hope you will actively work toward approving the settlement of this case as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kent Austin, Cc/SLP".

Kent Austin, Speech Pathologist/Audiologist
2520 Coronado Ct.
Emporia, Kansas 66801